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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/681,065	12/15/2000	Martin C. Robinson	99R1360	9483

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EXAMINER

FUREMAN, JARED

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2876

DATE MAILED: 05/09/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	09/681,065	ROBINSON, MARTIN C.
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	Jared J. Fureman	2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) Claim(s) 1-113 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 56-62 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-55 and 63-113 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All
  - b) Some \*
  - c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
  - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>4</u> .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Election/Restrictions***

1. Applicant's election without traverse of group I, claims 1-55, 63, and 64 in Paper No. 7 is acknowledged.
2. Receipt is acknowledged of the preliminary amendment filed on 11/21/2001, which has been entered in the file. Claims 1-111 are pending, claims 56-62 being withdrawn from consideration.

***Claim Objections***

3. Claims 21, 63, 82, and 94 are objected to because of the following informalities:  
Re claims 21 and 94, line 2: "reader" should be replaced with --radio-- (see page 8, line 21 of the specification).  
Re claim 63, line "it" should be replaced with --said property identification marker--, in order to clarify the claim.  
Re claim 82, line 3: "it" should be replaced with --said genetically modified bulk flowable material--, in order to clarify the claim.  
Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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5. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9, 16-24, 28, 29, 42, 44, 45, 51-53, 55, 78, 111, and 113 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rawlins (US 5,845,229).

Re claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9, 16-24, 28, 29, 42, 44, 45, 51-53, 55, and 78: Rawlins teaches a method for identifying a characteristic of a bulk flowable material comprising the steps of: selecting a bulk flowable material (crop 41) having a determined property, causing the bulk flowable material to flow, periodically dispensing a property identification marker (54) into the bulk flowable material, wherein the bulk flowable material comprises an agricultural product, wherein the agricultural product comprises a harvested agricultural crop, wherein the harvested agricultural crop is located in a transport container (44), wherein the harvested agricultural crop is located in a crop harvesting apparatus (40), wherein the property identification marker contains information indicating a geographic origin (field location) of the bulk flowable material, wherein the property identification marker comprises an optically readable marker, machine readable marker, coded information, human readable information (numbers or lettering, see column 5 lines 12-18), wherein the property identification marker comprises a radiant energy marker, a radio frequency identification tag (electronic tag 66, see column 4 line 60 - column 5 line 12), a marker preparation step wherein identifying information (a code number) is stored on the property identification marker, the marker preparation step being performed prior to the step of causing the bulk flowable material to flow, the dispensing being performed at pre-determined time intervals (the times at which the apparatus reaches the field locations), a marker reading step, wherein the periodically dispensing step is performed by a marker

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dispenser (46) located in a bulk flowable material collection device, a crop harvester (26), the step of recording positioning information associated with the bulk flowable material, wherein the recording step includes the step of receiving a positioning system signal related to the bulk flowable material (see column 6 lines 34-42), wherein the harvested agricultural crop is located in a storage container (44), wherein the property identification marker comprises a consumable marker (the markers are consumable in that they can be used up), wherein the reading step is performed automatically (see figures 1-5, column 4 line 1 - column 7 line 28).

Re claims 111-113: Rawlins teaches a material identification system, comprising: means (54) for indicating a property (field location) of a bulk flowable material (crop 41), and means (46) for dispensing the means for indicating a property into a flowing bulk flowable material, means for reading the means for indicating, means for routing the bulk flowable material to a desired location (means for routing the crop into crop storage 44) (see figures 1-5, column 4 line 1 - column 7 line 28).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 11, 25, 26, and 46-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rawlins in view of Kouchi et al (US 5,541,394).

The teachings of Rawlins have been discussed above.

Rawlins fails to teach the property identification marker comprising information indicating: a historical record of the bulk flowable material, a plurality of properties of the bulk flowable material, a prior chemical/insecticide/herbicide treatment of the bulk flowable material; the property identification marker comprises a color-coded marker.

Kouchi et al teaches a system and method including: a property identification marker (a two dimensional barcode) comprising information indicating: a historical record of a bulk flowable material (wheat), a plurality of properties of the bulk flowable material, a prior chemical/insecticide/herbicide treatment of the bulk flowable material (e.g., a country of origin/name of production area, a crop year, use/non-use of pesticides/insecticides); the property identification marker comprises a color-coded marker (the two dimensional barcode includes areas of different colors, e.g., black and white) (see figure 10, column 18 lines 23-33, and column 19 lines 8-15).

In view of Kouchi et al's teachings, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include with the method, as taught by Rawlins, the property identification marker comprising information indicating: a historical record of the bulk flowable material, a plurality of properties of the bulk flowable material, a prior chemical/insecticide/herbicide treatment of the bulk flowable material; the property identification marker comprises a color-coded marker, in order to provide a means/method of verifying the properties of the material (see column 19, lines 8-15).

8. Claims 37-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rawlins.

The teachings of Rawlins have been discussed above.

Rawlins fails to specifically teach the step of removing the property identification markers from the bulk flowable material, the removing step comprising a filtering step, an air flow generating step, a gravity separation step, or a magnetic separation step.

However, Official Notice is taken that at the time of the invention it was well known to those of ordinary skill in the art to remove any foreign/undesired objects from a bulk flowable material (such as grains, beans, etc.) using a filtering step, an air flow generating step, a gravity separation step, or a magnetic separation step.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include, with the system as taught by Rawlins, step of removing the property identification markers from the bulk flowable material, the removing step comprising a filtering step, an air flow generating step, a gravity separation step, or a magnetic separation step, in order to remove the identification marker (a foreign object), thereby providing a more pure bulk flowable material for further processing.

9. Claims 27, 54, 63, 68, 86, 89-95, 97, 100-102, and 105-110 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rawlins in view of Beller et al (US 5,602,377).

The teachings of Rawlins have been discussed above.

Re claims 27, 54, 63, 68, 86, 89-95, 97, 101, 105-110: Rawlins fails to specifically teach wherein the property identification marker comprises a preprinted label, a shape coded marker, wherein the plurality of property identification markers carry information identifying a physical characteristic of a bulk flowable material in which it is placed, the plurality of property identification markers comprise a plurality of labels,

wherein the property identification marker is physically attached to a portion of the bulk flowable material.

Beller et al teaches a material identification system, including: a plurality of property identification markers (a preprinted, prior to being applied to the object, modified bar code dataform) that carry information identifying a physical characteristic (for example, the characteristic that rust proofing is added to a car) of an object associated with the property identification marker, a shape coded marker (the shape of the barcode), the plurality of property identification markers comprise a plurality of labels, wherein the property identification marker is physically attached to a portion of the object material (see column 3 lines 5-20, column 5 lines 54-63, and column 7 lines 13-20).

In view of Beller et al's teachings, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include, with the system and method as taught by Rawlins, wherein the property identification marker comprises a preprinted label, a shape coded marker, wherein the plurality of property identification markers carry information identifying a physical characteristic of a bulk flowable material in which the identification marker is placed, the plurality of property identification markers comprise a plurality of labels, wherein the property identification marker is physically attached to a portion of the bulk flowable material, in order to provide additional data regarding the bulk flowable material.

Re claims 100 and 102: Rawlins as modified by Beller fails to specifically teach the ink being a soy-based ink or vegetable-based dye.

However, Official Notice is taken that at the time of the invention, soy-based inks and vegetable-based dyes were old and well known to those of ordinary skill in the art.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include, with the system and method as taught by Rawlins as modified by Beller, the ink being a soy-based ink or a vegetable based dye, in order to utilize a common and environmentally friendly ink.

10. Claims 7, 8, 33-36, and 67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rawlins in view of McGregor (Protect Your Crop Even When You Think It's Safe, cited by applicant).

Re claims 7, 8, 33-35, and 67: The teachings of Rawlins have been discussed above.

Rawlins fails to specifically teach wherein the property identification marker contains information identifying a grower/owner of the bulk flowable material, wherein the property identification marker comprises a paper label, a biodegradable label, a biodegradable ink.

McGregor teaches a property identification label (Crop Confetti), wherein the property identification marker contains information identifying a grower/owner of the bulk flowable material, wherein the property identification marker comprises a paper label, a biodegradable label (in that paper is biodegradable), a biodegradable ink (a canola based ink) (see paragraphs 4 and 5).

In view of McGregor's teachings, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include, with the system and method, as

taught by Rawlins, wherein the property identification marker contains information identifying a grower/owner of the bulk flowable material, wherein the property identification marker comprises a paper label, a biodegradable label, a biodegradable ink, in order to provide a system and method to identify the owner of the bulk flowable material using environmentally friendly markers.

Re claim 36: Rawlins as modified by McGregor fails to specifically teach the ink being a soy-based ink.

However, Official Notice is taken that at the time of the invention, soy-based inks were old and well known to those of ordinary skill in the art.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include, with the system and method as taught by Rawlins as modified by McGregor, the ink being a soy-based ink, in order to utilize a common and environmentally friendly ink.

11. Claims 96, 98, and 99 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rawlins as modified by Beller et al, further in view of McGregor.

The teachings of Rawlins as modified by Beller et al have been discussed above.

Rawlins as modified by Beller et al fails to specifically teach wherein the plurality of property identification markers are biodegradable, comprises a plurality of biodegradable ink doses.

The teachings of McGregor have been discussed above.

In view of McGregor's teachings, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include, with the system and method as

taught by Rawlins as modified by Beller et al, wherein the plurality of property identification markers are biodegradable, comprises a plurality of biodegradable ink doses, in order to provide a system and method to identify the owner of the bulk flowable material using environmentally friendly markers.

12. Claims 3, 10, 12-15, 65, and 66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rawlins in view of Rittenburg et al (US 6,068,981).

The teachings of Rawlins have been discussed above.

Rawlins fails to teach the agricultural product being an unharvested agricultural product, wherein the property identification marker contains information indicating a genetic property of the bulk flowable material, a crop variety designation related to the agricultural product, information indicating a specific trait associated with the agricultural product, information useful for indicating whether the agricultural product is a genetically modified organism, information indicating the agricultural product's genetic content, wherein the property identification marker contains information identifying a soil amendment application/fertilizer application performed to soil used to grow the agricultural product.

Rittenburg et al teaches a property identification marker for an agricultural product, the agricultural product being an unharvested agricultural product, wherein the property identification marker contains information indicating a genetic property of the bulk flowable material (whether the plant represents a genetically modified organism), a crop variety designation related to the agricultural product, information indicating a specific trait associated with the agricultural product, information useful for indicating

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whether the agricultural product is a genetically modified organism, information indicating the agricultural product's genetic content, wherein the property identification marker contains information identifying a soil amendment application/fertilizer application performed to soil used to grow the agricultural product (see column 2 lines 35-64, column 12 lines 32-37).

In view of Rittenburg et al's teachings, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include, with the system and method as taught by Rawlins, the agricultural product being an unharvested agricultural product, wherein the property identification marker contains information indicating a genetic property of the bulk flowable material, a crop variety designation related to the agricultural product, information indicating a specific trait associated with the agricultural product, information useful for indicating whether the agricultural product is a genetically modified organism, information indicating the agricultural product's genetic content, wherein the property identification marker contains information identifying a soil amendment application/fertilizer application performed to soil used to grow the agricultural product, in order to provide a marker which allows a more detailed identification of the product/material.

13. Claims 64, 85, 103, and 104 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rawlins as modified by Beller et al, further in view of Rittenburg et al.

The teachings of Rawlins as modified by Beller et al have been discussed above. Rawlins as modified by Beller et al fails to teach wherein the plurality of property identification markers identifies a bulk flowable material as containing a genetically

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modified organism, identifies the bulk flowable material as containing an organism that has not been genetically modified, identifies a soil amendment application/fertilizer application performed to soil used to grow an agriculturally generated bulk flowable material.

The teachings of Rittenburg et al have been discussed above.

In view of Rittenburg et al's teachings, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include, with the system and method as taught by Rawlins as modified by Beller et al, wherein the plurality of property identification markers identifies a bulk flowable material as containing a genetically modified organism, identifies the bulk flowable material as containing an organism that has not been genetically modified, identifies a soil amendment application/fertilizer application performed to soil used to grow an agriculturally generated bulk flowable material, in order to provide a marker which allows a more detailed identification of the product/material.

14. Claims 31 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rawlins in view of Bilnoski, Jr. (US 5,849,140).

The teachings of Rawlins have been discussed above.

Re claim 31: Rawlins fails to teach wherein the property identification marker comprises a substance deposited onto the bulk flowable material.

Bilnoski, Jr. teaches a property identification marker, wherein the property identification marker comprises a substance deposited onto the material (a color-coded ink spray, see column 1 lines 28-30).

In view of Bilnoski, Jr.'s teachings, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include, with the system and method as taught by Rawlins, wherein the property identification marker comprises a substance deposited onto the bulk flowable material, in order to provide a simple means/method of marking the material.

Re claim 32: Rawlins as modified by Bilnoski, Jr.'s fails to specifically teach the substance being a colored vegetable-based dye.

However, Official Notice is taken that at the time of the invention, colored vegetable-based dyes were old and well known to those of ordinary skill in the art.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include, with the system and method as taught by Rawlins as modified by Bilnoski, Jr., the substance being a colored vegetable-based dye, in order to provide an environmentally friendly dye.

15. Claims 42, 49, 50, 79-81, 83, and 84 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rawlins in view of Iseki Agric. Mach. Mfg. Co. LTD (JP 10-180194).

The teachings of Rawlins have been discussed above.

Rawlins fails to specifically teach routing the bulk flowable material based on a determined property of the bulk flowable material, automatically routing the bulk flowable material in response to data gathered via the automatic reading step, automatically detecting bulk flowable material sharing a given determined property to a designated storage location, wherein the property identification marker contains

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information indicating future handling regarding the bulk flowable material, information indicating prior testing of the bulk flowable material.

Iseki Agric. Mach. Mfg. Co. LTD teaches routing a bulk flowable material (grain) based on a determined property (quality) of the bulk flowable material, automatically routing the bulk flowable material in response to data gathered via an automatic reading step (automatically reading the tag associated with the grain), automatically detecting bulk flowable material sharing a given determined property to a designated storage location (tanks 18), wherein the property identification marker contains information indicating future handling regarding the bulk flowable material (the quality information determines where the grain is stored), information indicating prior testing (the quality testing) of the bulk flowable material (see figures 1, 5, and the attached translation of the abstract).

In view of Iseki Agric. Mach. Mfg. Co. LTD teachings, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include, with the system and method as taught by Rawlins, routing the bulk flowable material based on a determined property of the bulk flowable material, automatically routing the bulk flowable material in response to data gathered via the automatic reading step, automatically detecting bulk flowable material sharing a given determined property to a designated storage location, wherein the property identification marker contains information indicating future handling regarding the bulk flowable material, information indicating prior testing of the bulk flowable material, in order to avoid mixing grains of different qualities.

16. Claim 82 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rawlins as modified by Iseki Agric. Mach. Mfg. Co. LTD, further in view of Rittenburg et al.

The teachings of Rawlins as modified by Iseki Agric. Mach. Mfg. Co. LTD have been discussed above.

Rawlins as modified by Iseki Agric. Mach. Mfg. Co. LTD fails to specifically teach automatically routing genetically modified bulk flowable material to a storage location collecting genetically modified bulk flowable material so as to segregate the genetically modified bulk flowable material from bulk flowable material that has not been genetically modified.

The teachings of Rittenburg et al have been discussed above.

In view of Rittenburg et al's teachings, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include, with the system and method as taught by Rawlins as modified by Iseki Agric. Mach. Mfg. Co. LTD, teach automatically routing genetically modified bulk flowable material to a storage location collecting genetically modified bulk flowable material so as to segregate the genetically modified bulk flowable material from bulk flowable material that has not been genetically modified, in order to avoid mixing grains having different genetic qualities.

17. Claims 87 and 88 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rawlins as modified by Beller et al as applied to claim 63 above, and further in view of Kanbar (US 5,944,461).

Rawlins as modified by Beller et al fails to teach a preprinted continuous label spool which is subdivided to create the plurality of property identification markers, the preprinted continuous spool comprising a continuous barcode printed thereon.

Kanbar teaches a system and method including: a preprinted continuous label spool (tape 10) which is subdivided to create the plurality of property identification markers, the preprinted continuous spool comprising a continuous barcode (BC) printed thereon (see figures 1, 2, column 3 lines 37-43).

In view of Kanbar's teachings, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include, with the system and method as taught by Rawlins as modified by Beller et al, a preprinted continuous label spool which is subdivided to create the plurality of property identification markers, the preprinted continuous spool comprising a continuous barcode printed thereon, in order to eliminate the need for the system to include a printer for printing barcodes.

18. Claims 30 and 69-77 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rawlins in view of Sandvik et al (US 5,664,402).

The teachings of Rawlins have been discussed above.

Rawlins fails to teach sensing the volume/mass/weight of the flowing bulk flowable material, wherein the periodically dispensing step dispenses a property identification marker so as to achieve a given property identification marker to volume, mass, or weight ratio, using data obtained via the reading step to calculate statistical information, volume, mass, or weight related to the bulk flowable material.

Sandvik et al teaches a system and method including: sensing the volume/mass/weight of the flowing bulk flowable material (grain), wherein the periodically dispensing step dispenses a property identification marker (barcode 110) so as to achieve a given property identification marker to volume, mass, or weight ratio, using data obtained via the reading step to calculate statistical information, volume, mass, or weight related to the bulk flowable material (see the abstract, figures 7-11, column 2 lines 4-7, column 3 lines 40-67, column 4 lines 48-60, and column 6 lines 7-15).

In view of Sandvik et al's teachings, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include, with the system and method as taught by Rawlins, sensing the volume/mass/weight of the flowing bulk flowable material, wherein the periodically dispensing step dispenses a property identification marker so as to achieve a given property identification marker to volume, mass, or weight ratio, using data obtained via the reading step to calculate statistical information, volume, mass, or weight related to the bulk flowable material, in order to maintain accurate record of the bulk flowable material.

### ***Conclusion***

19. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Larsen (US 6,279,255 B1), Wendte et al (US 6,119,531), and Garner et al (US 5,776,713) all teach crop/product identification systems and methods using a crop/product marker.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jared J. Fureman whose telephone number is (703) 305-0424. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 am - 4:30 PM M-T, and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on (703) 305-3503. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

JJF  
jjf  
May 6, 2002



MICHAEL G. LEE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800